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TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 4

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SEPTEMBER 1982

U. S. ARMY RESEARCH OFFICE
CONTRACT DAAG29-82-K-0156

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
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Also issued as Technical Report No. 57 under
Office of Naval Research Contract No. N00014-75-C-0442.
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RANK ADDITIVITY AND MATRIX POLYNOMIALS

Let A_1, \dots, A_k be $m \times n$ matrices and let $A = \sum A_i$. Then we say that the A_i 's are *rank additive to A* whenever

$$\text{rank}(A_1) + \dots + \text{rank}(A_k) = \text{rank}(A).$$

The earliest consideration of rank additivity may well be by Cochran (1934), who studied the distribution of quadratic forms in normal random variables. More recently, Anderson and Styan(1982), in a largely expository paper, presented various theorems on rank additivity, with particular emphasis on square matrices which are idempotent ($A^2 = A$), tripotent ($A^3 = A$) or r -potent ($A^r = A$). See also Khatri (1980), Takemura (1980), and Styan (1982).

In this paper we generalize some of those theorems to matrices that satisfy a general matrix polynomial equation $P(A) = O$.

We begin by considering some relationships between linearly independent vector spaces, direct sums and rank additivity. There are several definitions of linear independence of vector spaces currently in use. We briefly review these and set up our notation.

DEFINITION 1. Let X be a (finite-dimensional) vector space and U_1, \dots, U_k be subspaces of X . U_1, \dots, U_k are linearly independent if

$$x_i \in U_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, k, \quad \sum_{i=1}^k x_i = O \quad \Rightarrow \quad x_i = O, \quad i = 1, \dots, k.$$

It is easy to see that U_1, \dots, U_k are linearly independent if and only if any set of nonzero vectors $x_i \in U_i, i = 1, \dots, k$ are linearly independent. We now list several equivalent conditions in a sequence of lemmas.

LEMMA 1. The vector spaces U_1, \dots, U_k are linearly independent if and only if every vector in $U = U_1 + \dots + U_k$ has a unique representation in the form $\sum_{i=1}^k x_i, x_i \in U_i$.

Proof: Let $O = x_1 + \dots + x_k, x_i \in U_i, i = 1, \dots, k$. Note that $O \in U_i$ for all i and $O = O + \dots + O$. Hence by the uniqueness of the representation $x_i = O, i = 1, \dots, k$.

Therefore U_1, \dots, U_k are independent. Conversely suppose that U_1, \dots, U_k are independent. Let $\sum_{i=1}^k x_i = \sum_{i=1}^k x_i^0$, $x_i, x_i^0 \in U_i$. Then $0 = \sum_{i=1}^k x_i - x_i^0$ and $x_i - x_i^0 \in U_i$. Hence $x_i - x_i^0 = 0$, $i = 1, \dots, k$. ■

Rao and Yanai (1979) use the characterization in Lemma 1 as the definition of "disjointness" of the subspaces. Another definition is given by Jacobson (1953, p.28).

LEMMA 2. *The vector spaces U_1, \dots, U_k are linearly independent if and only if*

$$U_i \cap (U_1 + \dots + U_{i-1} + U_{i+1} + \dots + U_k) = \{0\} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, k.$$

Proof: Immediate from Jacobson (1953, Th.10, p.29) and Lemma 1. ■

LEMMA 3. *The vector spaces U_1, \dots, U_k are linearly independent if and only if*

$$\dim(U_1 + \dots + U_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \dim U_i.$$

Proof: Immediate from Jacobson (1953, Th.11, p.29). ■

If U_1, \dots, U_k are linearly independent subspaces and $U = U_1 + \dots + U_k$ then we say that U is the *direct sum* of the subspaces and denote this by

$$U = U_1 \oplus \dots \oplus U_k = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k U_i.$$

Consider the column space (range) $C(A_i)$ of the $m \times n_i$ matrices A_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$.

Let $\ell = \sum_{i=1}^k n_i$.

LEMMA 4. *$C(A_i)$, $i = 1, \dots, k$ are linearly independent if and only if*

$$\text{rank}(A_1, A_2, \dots, A_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \text{rank}(A_i).$$

Proof: Notice that $\text{rank}(A_i) = \dim C(A_i)$ and $\text{rank}(A_1, \dots, A_k) = \dim(C(A_1) + \dots + C(A_k))$. Hence the lemma follows from Lemma 3. ■

Consider the $km \times m$ partitioned matrix $\mathbf{K}_m = (\mathbf{I}_m, \dots, \mathbf{I}_m)'$ and the $km \times \ell$ block diagonal matrix

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A}_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \mathbf{A}_k \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then Lemma 4 can be written in the form $\text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D}) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{D})$, cf. Anderson and Styan (1982, p.8).

Now let the matrices $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k$ all have the same number of columns n . Then with $\mathbf{A} = \sum_{i=1}^k \mathbf{A}_i$ we have

LEMMA 5. $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}) = \sum_{i=1}^k \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}_i)$ if and only if $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$.

Proof: Since $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}) \subset \sum_{i=1}^k \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}_i)$ always holds, $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}) = \sum_{i=1}^k \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}_i)$ if and only if $\dim(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A})) = \dim(\sum_{i=1}^k \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}_i))$. Now $\dim(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A})) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$ and $\dim(\sum \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}_i)) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k)$.

■

Lemma 5 can be written in the form $\text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D}) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D} \mathbf{K}_n)$.

We now give the following characterization of rank additivity.

LEMMA 6. The matrices $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k$ are rank additive to \mathbf{A} if and only if $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}) = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}_1) \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}_k)$.

Proof: By Lemma 4 and Lemma 5, the column space $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}) = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}_1) \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}_k)$ if and only if $\text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D}) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{D})$ and $\text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D}) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D} \mathbf{K}_n)$. But $\text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D} \mathbf{K}_n) \leq \text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D}) \leq \text{rank}(\mathbf{D})$. Hence $\text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D}) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{D})$ and $\text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D}) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D} \mathbf{K}_n)$ if and only if $\text{rank}(\mathbf{K}'_m \mathbf{D} \mathbf{K}_n) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{D})$. ■

From now on we restrict \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A}_i to be $n \times n$ square matrices.

THEOREM 1. Let $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k$ be square matrices, not necessarily symmetric, and let $\mathbf{A} = \sum \mathbf{A}_i$. Let $P(x)$ be a polynomial in the scalar x with $P(0) = q$. Consider the following

statements:

- (a) $P(\mathbf{A}_i) = \mathbf{0}, \quad i = 1, \dots, k,$
- (b) $\mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{A}_j = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{for all } i \neq j,$
- (c) $P(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0},$
- (d) $\sum \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_i) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}).$

If $q = 0$ then

$$(1) \quad (b), (c), (d) \Rightarrow (a).$$

If $q \neq 0$ then $P(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0}$ implies that \mathbf{A} is nonsingular and

$$(2) \quad (b), (c), (d) \Rightarrow P(\mathbf{A}_i) = q(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{A}_i) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{A}_i P(\mathbf{A}_i) = \mathbf{0}, \quad i = 1, \dots, k.$$

Proof: Suppose $q = 0$. Then (b) implies that $\mathbf{0} = P(\mathbf{A}) = \sum_{i=1}^k P(\mathbf{A}_i)$. Therefore for every \mathbf{x} we obtain $\mathbf{0} = \sum P(\mathbf{A}_i)\mathbf{x}$. Now $P(\mathbf{A}_i)\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}_i)$. Hence by linear independence of the $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A}_i)$'s we have $P(\mathbf{A}_i)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ for all \mathbf{x} . Hence (a) holds.

Now let $q \neq 0$, and let the polynomial $R(x) = xP(x)$. Then $R(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0}$ and from the previous case ($q = 0$) we obtain $R(\mathbf{A}_i) = \mathbf{A}_i P(\mathbf{A}_i) = \mathbf{0}, \quad i = 1, \dots, k$. If $P(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0}$ then $P(\lambda) = \mathbf{0}$ for any characteristic root λ of \mathbf{A} . Therefore $q \neq 0$ implies that 0 is not a characteristic root of \mathbf{A} , or \mathbf{A} is nonsingular. Then

$$\begin{aligned} AP(\mathbf{A}_i) &= \mathbf{A}[P(\mathbf{A}_i) - q\mathbf{I}] + q\mathbf{A} \\ &= \mathbf{A}_i[P(\mathbf{A}_i) - q\mathbf{I}] + q\mathbf{A} \\ &= q(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A}_i), \end{aligned}$$

from which (2) follows at once. ■

When the polynomial

$$P(x) = P_2(x) = x^2 - x,$$

then (1) may be strengthened to

$$(c)_2, (d) \Leftrightarrow (a), (b),$$

where $(c)_2$ is (c) with $P = P_2$. This is Cochran's Theorem (cf. Anderson and Styman, 1982, Th.1.1). When

$$P(x) = P_3(x) = x^3 - x,$$

then (1) may be strengthend

$$(3) \quad (c)_3, (d), (e) \Leftrightarrow (a), (b),$$

where

$$(e) \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}_i = \mathbf{A}_i\mathbf{A}, \quad i = 1, \dots, k,$$

cf. Anderson and Styman (1982, Th.3.1). Here $(c)_3$ is (c) with $P = P_3$. Takemura (1980, Th.3.2) showed that (3) still holds with $(c)_3$ replaced by $(c)_r$ for $P(x) = P_r(x) = x^r - x$.

Notice that the polynomials P_2, P_3 and P_r have no multiple root; we obtain further results when the polynomial P has no multiple root. First we show that there exists a "nullity-additivity" relation underlying a matrix polynomial with no multiple root. Anderson and Styman (1982, p.5) showed that

$$(4) \quad \nu(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A}^2) = \nu[\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})] = \nu(\mathbf{A}) + \nu(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}),$$

where

$$(5) \quad \nu(\mathbf{A}) = n - \text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$$

is the (column) nullity of the $n \times n$ matrix \mathbf{A} .

Equation (4) is a special case of equality in Sylvester's law of nullity:

$$\nu(\mathbf{AB}) \leq \nu(\mathbf{A}) + \nu(\mathbf{B}),$$

where \mathbf{A} is $m \times n$ and \mathbf{B} is $n \times \ell$, say. Then

$$(6) \quad \nu(\mathbf{AB}) = \nu(\mathbf{A}) + \nu(\mathbf{B})$$

if and only if

$$(7) \quad \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{A}) \subset \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{B}),$$

where $\mathcal{N}(\cdot)$ denotes null space, cf. Satake (1975, p.124). See also Marsaglia and Styman (1974, p.275). Using this fact we obtain

THEOREM 2. Let \mathbf{A} be a square matrix and let x_1, \dots, x_d be distinct scalars. Then

$$(8) \quad \nu\left[\prod_{i=1}^d (\mathbf{A} - x_i \mathbf{I})\right] = \sum_{i=1}^d \nu(\mathbf{A} - x_i \mathbf{I}).$$

Proof: Let $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{A} - x_1 \mathbf{I})$. Then $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = x_1 \mathbf{u}$ and since $\prod_{i=2}^d (x_1 - x_i) \neq 0$ we see that

$$\mathbf{u} = \prod_{i=2}^d (\mathbf{A} - x_i \mathbf{I})\mathbf{u} / \prod_{i=2}^d (x_1 - x_i) \in \mathcal{C}\left[\prod_{i=2}^d (\mathbf{A} - x_i \mathbf{I})\right]$$

and so

$$\nu\left[\prod_{i=1}^d (\mathbf{A} - x_i \mathbf{I})\right] = \nu(\mathbf{A} - x_1 \mathbf{I}) + \nu\left[\prod_{i=2}^d (\mathbf{A} - x_i \mathbf{I})\right],$$

since (6) \Leftrightarrow (7). Repeating this argument $d - 2$ times establishes (8). ■

Theorem 2 yields the following corollaries:

COROLLARY 1. Let the polynomial P have degree d and distinct roots x_1, \dots, x_d , and let the matrix \mathbf{A} be $n \times n$. Then

$$\nu[P(\mathbf{A})] = \nu\left[\prod_{i=1}^d (\mathbf{A} - x_i \mathbf{I})\right] = \sum_{i=1}^d \nu(\mathbf{A} - x_i \mathbf{I}).$$

Moreover,

$$(9) \quad \begin{aligned} P(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0} &\Leftrightarrow \sum_{i=1}^d \nu(\mathbf{A} - x_i \mathbf{I}) = n \\ &\Leftrightarrow \sum_{i=1}^d \text{rank}(\mathbf{A} - x_i \mathbf{I}) = (d-1)n, \end{aligned}$$

and the set $\{x_1, \dots, x_d\}$ contains all distinct characteristic roots of \mathbf{A} .

Proof: Equation (9) follows from $P(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0} \Leftrightarrow \nu[P(\mathbf{A})] = n$ and from (5). If $P(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0}$ then any characteristic root of \mathbf{A} is a root of P . Hence $\{x_1, \dots, x_d\}$ contains all distinct characteristic roots of \mathbf{A} . ■

COROLLARY 2. Let $\omega = \exp[2\pi i/(r-1)]$, where the integer $r \geq 2$ and let the matrix \mathbf{A} be $n \times n$. Then

$$(10) \quad \nu(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A}^r) = \nu(\mathbf{A}) + \nu(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) + \sum_{s=1}^{r-2} \nu(\omega^s \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}),$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^r &\Leftrightarrow \nu(\mathbf{A}) + \nu(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) + \sum_{s=1}^{r-2} \nu(\omega^s \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) = n \\ &\Leftrightarrow \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) + \text{rank}(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) + \sum_{s=1}^{r-2} \text{rank}(\omega^s \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) = (r-1)n. \end{aligned}$$

When $r = 2$ the summation in Corollary 2 disappear and (10) reduces to (4). When $r = 3$, equation (10) becomes

$$\nu(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{A}^3) = \nu(\mathbf{A}) + \nu(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}) + \nu(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{A}),$$

cf. Anderson and Styan (1982, p.13).

Another consequence of P having no multiple root is the diagonability of the matrix \mathbf{A} which satisfies $P(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{O}$.

LEMMA 7. The square matrix \mathbf{A} is diagonalable if and only if there exists a polynomial P with no multiple root such that $P(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{O}$.

A matrix \mathbf{A} is said to be *diagonalable* if there exists a nonsingular \mathbf{F} such that $\mathbf{F}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{F}$ is diagonal, and then the minimal polynomial has no multiple root (cf. e.g., Mirsky, 1955, Th.10.2.5, p.297). The polynomial P in Lemma 7 must be a multiple of (or actually) the minimal polynomial. Lemma 7 shows that an idempotent, tripotent or r -potent matrix \mathbf{A} is diagonalable.

We may prove Lemma 7 using the algebraic and geometric multiplicities of the (distinct) characteristic roots $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_p$ of \mathbf{A} . Let am_j , $j = 1, \dots, p$ denote the *algebraic multiplicity* of λ_j , namely the multiplicity of λ_j as a root of the characteristic equation. Let gm_j , $j = 1, \dots, p$, denote the *geometric multiplicity* of λ_j , namely the nullity $\nu(\mathbf{A} - \lambda_j \mathbf{I})$. Note that $am_j \geq gm_j$, $j = 1, \dots, p$. (See e.g. Mirsky 1955, p.294). The characteristic root λ_j is said to be *regular* if $am_j = gm_j$.

LEMMA 8. *The square matrix \mathbf{A} is diagonalable if and only if all its characteristic roots are regular.*

Proof: See e.g. Mirsky (1955, Th.10.2.3). ■

Proof of Lemma 7. Let $P(x) = (x - x_1)(x - x_2) \cdots (x - x_d)$, where $d = \deg P$, and x_1, \dots, x_d are the distinct roots of $P(x) = 0$ and suppose $P(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0}$. Then

$$\mathbf{0} = P(\mathbf{A}) = (\mathbf{A} - x_1\mathbf{I})(\mathbf{A} - x_2\mathbf{I}) \cdots (\mathbf{A} - x_d\mathbf{I}).$$

Define $gm_i^* = gm_j$ if $x_i = \lambda_j$ for some j and $gm_i^* = 0$ otherwise. Then $\nu(\mathbf{A} - x_i\mathbf{I}) = gm_i^*$ for all i . [Note that if x_i is not a characteristic root of \mathbf{A} then $\mathbf{A} - x_i\mathbf{I}$ is nonsingular and $\nu(\mathbf{A} - x_i\mathbf{I}) = 0 = gm_i^*$.] Then by Theorem 2

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \sum_{i=1}^d \nu(\mathbf{A} - x_i\mathbf{I}) = \sum_{i=1}^d gm_i^* \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^p gm_j \leq \sum_{j=1}^p am_j = n. \end{aligned}$$

Hence the inequalities above collapse and we have $am_i = gm_i$, $i = 1, \dots, p$. By Lemma 8 \mathbf{A} is diagonalable.

To go the other way let \mathbf{A} be diagonalable. Then we may write

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{F}^{-1} = \mathbf{F}\text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_p)\mathbf{F}^{-1},$$

where $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_p$ are distinct roots of \mathbf{A} . Let $P(x) = (x - \lambda_1) \cdots (x - \lambda_p)$. Then

$$P(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{F}P(\mathbf{A})\mathbf{F}^{-1} = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{A} - \lambda_1\mathbf{I}) \cdots (\mathbf{A} - \lambda_p\mathbf{I})\mathbf{F}^{-1} = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{O}\mathbf{F}^{-1} = \mathbf{0},$$

and the result is established. ■

The two matrices \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} are said to be *simultaneously diagonalable* if \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} can be diagonalized by the same nonsingular matrix \mathbf{F} . We then have the following extension of Theorem 1.

THEOREM 3. Let $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k$ be $n \times n$ matrices, not necessarily symmetric, and let $\mathbf{A} = \sum \mathbf{A}_i$ be diagonalable. Suppose that

- (b) $\mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{A}_j = \mathbf{O}$ for all $i \neq j$,
- (d) $\sum \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_i) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$.

Then $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k$ are all simultaneously diagonalable and for some nonsingular \mathbf{F}

$$(11) \quad \mathbf{F}^{-1} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{F} = \text{diag}(\lambda_{j(1)}, \dots, \lambda_{j(n)}),$$

and

$$(12) \quad \mathbf{F}^{-1} \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{F} = \text{diag}(0, \dots, 0, \lambda_{j(r_1+\dots+r_{i-1}+1)}, \dots, \lambda_{j(r_1+\dots+r_i)}, 0, \dots, 0),$$

where $r_i = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_i)$, $j(i) \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, $i = 1, \dots, n$.

Proof: Let $P(x)$ be a polynomial with no multiple root and such that $P(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{O}$. If $P(0) = 0$ then by Theorem 1 $P(\mathbf{A}_i) = \mathbf{O}$ and hence \mathbf{A}_i is diagonalable, $i = 1, \dots, k$. If $P(0) \neq 0$ then 0 is not a root of $P(x) = 0$. Hence $R(x) = xP(x)$ still has no multiple root. By Theorem 1 again $R(\mathbf{A}_i) = \mathbf{O}$ and hence \mathbf{A}_i is diagonalable, $i = 1, \dots, k$. In any event $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k$ are diagonalable. From (b) it follows that $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k$ are simultaneously diagonalable (by \mathbf{F}). See e.g., Mirsky (1955, Th.10.6.3., p.318) or Takemura (1980, Th.4.3). Let $\mathbf{F}^{-1} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{A}$, $\mathbf{F}^{-1} \mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{A}_i$. Then $\mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{A}_j = \mathbf{O}$ for all $i \neq j$, $\mathbf{A} = \sum \mathbf{A}_i$, $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = \sum \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_i)$ imply that by rearranging the coordinates (if necessary) we can obtain (11) and (12). ■

We extend Theorem 3 with:

THEOREM 4. Let $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k$ be $n \times n$ matrices, not necessarily symmetric, and let $\mathbf{A} = \sum_1^k \mathbf{A}_i$. Suppose that

- (b) $\mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{A}_j = \mathbf{O}$ for all $i \neq j$.

Then the set of nonzero characteristic roots of \mathbf{A} coincides with the set of all the nonzero characteristic roots of all the \mathbf{A}_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$. Furthermore the nonzero characteristic

root λ of \mathbf{A} is regular if and only if λ is a regular nonzero characteristic root of each \mathbf{A}_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$.

If in addition

$$(d) \quad \sum_1^k \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_i) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}),$$

then the characteristic root 0 of \mathbf{A} is regular if and only if 0 is a regular characteristic root of each \mathbf{A}_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$. Equivalently

$$\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}^2) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \Leftrightarrow \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_i^2) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, k.$$

Mäkeläinen and Stylian (1976, Lemma 2) have shown that the zero characteristic root of a matrix \mathbf{A} is regular if and only if $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}^2) = \text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$. Such a matrix \mathbf{A} is said to have index 1, cf. Ben-Israel and Greville (1974, p.169). Marsaglia and Stylian (1974, Th.15, p.286) proved that if $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_k$ all have index 1 then (b) \Rightarrow (d). From Lemma 7 and 8 it follows that when the polynomial P in Theorem 1 has no multiple root and $P(0) = 0$ then (a), (b) \Rightarrow (c), (d).

Proof of Theorem 4. Let \mathbf{A} have rank r , and let \mathbf{A}_i have rank r_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$. Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell$ be the nonzero characteristic roots of \mathbf{A} . Let m_{ij} be the algebraic multiplicity and g_{ij} the geometric multiplicity of λ_j as a characteristic root of \mathbf{A}_i , so that, cf. e.g., Mirsky (1955, Th.7.6.1, p.214),

$$(13) \quad n \geq m_{ij} \geq g_{ij} \geq 0; \quad i = 1, \dots, k, \quad j = 1, \dots, \ell.$$

Then λ_j is a regular characteristic root of \mathbf{A}_i whenever $m_{ij} = g_{ij}$. [Notice that $g_{ij} = 0 \Leftrightarrow m_{ij} = 0$; we will then speak of λ_j as a regular characteristic root of \mathbf{A}_i even though \mathbf{A}_i does not have λ_j as a root.] Let m_{i0} be the algebraic multiplicity and g_{i0} the geometric multiplicity of λ_j as a characteristic root of \mathbf{A} . Let m_{i0} be the algebraic multiplicity and g_{i0} the geometric multiplicity of 0 as a characteristic root of \mathbf{A}_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$. Then

$$m_{i0} = n - m_{i\cdot} = n - \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} m_{ij}, \quad g_{i0} = n - r_i = n - \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, k.$$

Hence $n \geq r_i \geq m_{i\cdot} \geq 0$; $i = 1, \dots, k$. Let m_{00} be the algebraic multiplicity and let g_{00} be the geometric multiplicity of 0 as a characteristic root of \mathbf{A} . Then

$$m_{00} = n - m_{0\cdot} = n - \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} m_{0j},$$

$$g_{00} = n - r = n - \text{rank}(\mathbf{A}).$$

Hence $n \geq r \geq m_{0\cdot} \geq 0$.

Let $\mathbf{A}_i = \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{C}'_i$, $i = 1, \dots, k$, be full rank decompositions, with \mathbf{B}_i and \mathbf{C}_i both $n \times r_i$ of rank r_i . Then $\mathbf{A} = \sum_1^k \mathbf{A}_i = \sum_1^k \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{C}'_i = \mathbf{BC}'$, where

$$\mathbf{B} = (\mathbf{B}_1, \dots, \mathbf{B}_k) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{C} = (\mathbf{C}_1, \dots, \mathbf{C}_k)$$

are both $n \times \sum_1^k r_i$.

Now suppose that (b) holds. Then $\mathbf{C}'_i \mathbf{B}_j = \mathbf{0}$ for all $i \neq j$ and so $\mathbf{C}' \mathbf{B} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{C}'_1 \mathbf{B}_1, \dots, \mathbf{C}'_k \mathbf{B}_k)$ is a block diagonal matrix.

Let $am_j(\mathbf{A})$ denote the algebraic multiplicity and $gm_j(\mathbf{A})$ denote the geometric multiplicity of λ_j as a characteristic root of \mathbf{A} . Then since the matrices \mathbf{FG} and \mathbf{GF} have the same nonzero characteristic roots (cf. e.g., Mirsky, 1955, Th.7.2.3., p.200), we may write for $j = 1, \dots, \ell$

$$m_{0j} = am_j(\mathbf{A}) = am_j(\mathbf{BC}') = am_j(\mathbf{C}' \mathbf{B}) = \sum_{i=1}^k am_j(\mathbf{C}'_i \mathbf{B}_i) = \sum_{i=1}^k am_j(\mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{C}'_i) = \sum_{i=1}^k m_{ij},$$

while

$$m_{0\cdot} = \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} m_{0j} = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} m_{ij} = \sum_{i=1}^k m_{i\cdot}$$

so that $n - am_0(\mathbf{A}) = \sum_1^k [n - am_0(\mathbf{A}_i)]$.

We now use the result that the matrices $\mathbf{FG} - \mathbf{I}$ and $\mathbf{GF} - \mathbf{I}$ have the same nullity, cf. Ouellette (1981, p.246). Then for each $j = 1, \dots, \ell$

$$\begin{aligned}
g_{0j} &= gm_j(\mathbf{A}) = \nu(\mathbf{A} - \lambda_j \mathbf{I}) = \nu(\mathbf{B}\mathbf{C}' - \lambda_j \mathbf{I}) = \nu(\mathbf{C}'\mathbf{B} - \lambda_j \mathbf{I}) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^k \nu(\mathbf{C}'_i \mathbf{B}_i - \lambda_j \mathbf{I}_{r_i}) = \sum_{i=1}^k \nu(\mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{C}'_i - \lambda_j \mathbf{I}_n) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^k \nu(\mathbf{A}_i - \lambda_j \mathbf{I}_n) = \sum_{i=1}^k g_{ij}.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence when (b) holds all the nonzero characteristic roots of the \mathbf{A}_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$, must be characteristic roots of \mathbf{A} , and all the nonzero characteristic roots of \mathbf{A} must be characteristic roots of \mathbf{A}_i for some i .

Furthermore, since $g_{ij} \leq m_{ij}$ from (13) we obtain

$$g_{0j} = \sum_{i=1}^k g_{ij} \leq \sum_{i=1}^k m_{ij} = m_{0j}; \quad j = 1, \dots, \ell,$$

and so for each $j = 1, \dots, \ell$

$$g_{0j} = m_{0j} \Leftrightarrow g_{ij} = m_{ij}; \quad i = 1, \dots, k.$$

Thus when (b) holds, λ_j is a regular nonzero characteristic root of \mathbf{A} if and only if λ_j is also a regular characteristic root of each \mathbf{A}_i , $i = 1, \dots, k$.

Now suppose that both (b) and (d) hold. Then substitution in

$$n - gm_0(\mathbf{A}) = r \leq \sum_1^k r_i = \sum_1^k [n - gm_0(\mathbf{A}_i)]$$

yields $n - gm_0(\mathbf{A}) = \sum_1^k [n - gm_0(\mathbf{A}_i)]$ and so

$$gm_0(\mathbf{A}) = n - \sum_1^k [n - gm_0(\mathbf{A}_i)] \leq n - \sum_1^k [n - am_0(\mathbf{A}_i)] = n - \sum_1^k m_i = n - m_0..$$

Hence 0 is a regular characteristic root of \mathbf{A} if and only if 0 is a regular characteristic root of \mathbf{A}_i , for all $i = 1, \dots, k$. \blacksquare

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Part of this research was completed while the first author was visiting the Department of Statistics at Stanford University in June 1981 and June 1982. He is most grateful to Professor T.W. Anderson for his hospitality. This research was supported in part by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Grant No. A7274, Gouvernement du Québec, Programme de chercheurs et d'action concertée, subvention no. EQ-961, Office of Naval Research Contract N00014-75-C-0442, and Army Research Office Contract DAAG29-82-K-0156.

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U.S. ARMY RESEARCH OFFICE - CONTRACT DAAG29-82-K-0156

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UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER 4	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) Rank Additivity and Matrix Polynomials		5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED Technical Report
		6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER
7. AUTHOR(s) George P.H. Styan Akimichi Takemura		8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s) DAAG29-82-K-0156
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Department of Statistics - Sequoia Hall Stanford University Stanford, California 94305		10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS P-19065-M
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS U.S. Army Research Office Post Office Box 12211 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709		12. REPORT DATE September 1982
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office)		13. NUMBER OF PAGES 14
		15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) UNCLASSIFIED
		15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report) Also issued as Technical Report No. 57 under Office of Naval Research Contract No. N00014-75-C-0442.		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES The view, opinions, and/or findings contained in this report are those of the authors and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy, or decision, unless so designated by other documentation.		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Cochran's theorem, rank additivity, matrix polynomials, diagonability, regular characteristic root.		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Various results are given concerning the logical relation between the rank additivity condition of matrices and polynomial equations satisfied by these matrices, generalizing earlier results on idempotent, tripotent, and r-potent matrices.		